

CLAIMS:

1. A method of locating lost pets comprising the steps of:
prompting pet owners to provide pet information relating to their pets and contact
information for the pet owners;
5 storing the pet information and the contact information in a computer-readable
memory accessible by a host computer;
prompting a person who finds a lost pet to access the host computer via a
communications network and to enter lost pet information relating to the
lost pet;
10 comparing in the host computer the lost pet information entered by the person
who found the pet to the pet information provided by the pet owners in an
attempt to find a match; and
if a match is found, providing the person who found the lost pet with the contact
information for the owner of the lost pet.
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2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pet information provided
by the pet owners for each pet includes an assigned set of digits corresponding to the
pet.
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3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the assigned set of digits
for each pet are printed on a tag that is worn by the pet.
4. The method as set forth in claim 3, the lost pet information entered by
the person who found the lost pet including the assigned set of digits on the tag.
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5. The method as set forth in claim 4, the assigned set of digits including
a rabies tag number printed on a rabies tag.
6. The method as set forth in claim 1, the communications network
30 including the Internet.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, the pet information being information selected from the group consisting of a veterinarian's name for the pet, the veterinarian's phone number, a licensing agency, a number from a rabies tag for the pet, a year that the pet was vaccinated, an indication of a pet type for the pet, an indication of a breed of the pet, a color of the pet, a date the pet was found, and a location where the pet was found.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, the contact information being information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, the pet owner's telephone number, a veterinarian for the pet, the veterinarian's address, and the veterinarian's phone number.

9. A computer program stored on a computer-readable memory device for operating a computer to aid in locating lost pets, the computer program comprising:

- a code segment for receiving from pet owners pet information relating to their pets and contact information for the pet owners;
- a code segment for storing the pet information and the contact information in computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;
- a code segment for permitting a person who finds a pet to access the host computer via a communications network and to enter lost pet information relating to the lost pet;
- a code segment for comparing the lost pet information entered by the person who found the pet to the pet information provided by the pet owners in an attempt to find a match; and
- a code segment for providing the person who found the lost pet with the contact information for the owner of the lost pet if a match is found.

10. The computer program as set forth in claim 9, wherein the pet information provided by the pet owners for each pet includes an assigned set of digits corresponding to the pet.

11. The computer program as set forth in claim 10, the lost pet information entered by the person who found the lost pet including the assigned set of digits.

12. The computer program as set forth in claim 9, the communications network including the Internet.

13. The computer program as set forth in claim 9, the pet information being information selected from the group consisting of a veterinarian's name for the pet, the veterinarian's phone number, a number from a rabies tag for the pet, a year that the pet was vaccinated, an indication of a pet type for the pet, an indication of a breed of the pet, a color of the pet, a date the pet was found, and a location where the pet was found.

14. The computer program as set forth in claim 9, the contact information being information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, the pet owner's telephone number, a veterinarian for the pet, the veterinarian's address, and the veterinarian's phone number.

15. A host computer accessible via a communications network to aid in locating lost pets, the host computer being programmed to:

receive from pet owners pet information relating to their pets and contact information for the pet owners;

store the pet information and the contact information in computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;

permit a person who finds a pet to access the host computer via a communications network and to enter lost pet information relating to the lost pet;

compare the lost pet information entered by the person who found the pet to the pet information provided by the pet owners in an attempt to find a match; and

provide the person who found the lost pet with the contact information for the owner of the lost pet if a match is found.

16. The host computer as set forth in claim 15, wherein the pet information provided by the pet owners for each pet includes an assigned set of digits corresponding to the pet.

17. The host computer as set forth in claim 16, the lost pet information entered by the person who found the lost pet including the assigned set of digits.

5 18. The host computer as set forth in claim 15, the communications network including the Internet.

10 19. The host computer as set forth in claim 15, the pet information being information selected from the group consisting of a veterinarian's name for the pet, the veterinarian's phone number, a number from a rabies tag for the pet, a year that the pet was vaccinated, an indication of a pet type for the pet, an indication of a breed of the pet, a color of the pet, a date the pet was found, and a location where the pet was found.

15 20. The host computer as set forth in claim 15, the contact information being information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, the pet owner's telephone number, a veterinarian for the pet, the veterinarian's address, and the veterinarian's phone number.

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